REMARKS

The Applicants would like to begin by thanking the Examiner for the Office action.

The Applicants believe that the amendments to the claims (as shown above) have

addressed the matters raised in the Office action (specifically, regarding the numerous

identified species, the concomitant examination and search burden, and the lack of a

generic claim), and pray that the Examiner will favorably receive the Applicants remarks,

below.

Amendments to the Claims

The claims have been amended as follows:

Independent claim 32 has been cancelled and is replaced with new independent

claim 63 which includes certain limitations of claim 33, as well as the limitations

of claims 36-37, 42-43, 45-46, 52 and 55.

· Claims 33, 38, 40-41, 44, 47, 49-51, 53, 56, 58-59 and 61-62 have been

amended to change their dependency to new claim 63.

Claim 33 has been amended to remove limitations added to claim 63.

· Claims 36-37, 42-43, 45-46 and 52 have been cancelled as being redundant in

view of the limitations contained in claim 63 (from which these claims now

depend).

Claim 53 has been amended to limit the "means to change the wavelength of

radiation emitted by the second amplifying waveguide" to a single construct.

Claim 54 has been cancelled as being inconsistent in view of the amendments

to claim 53.

Claims 64-66 are newly added to separately recite the limitations deleted from

claim 53; new claim 67 generally replaces cancelled claim 54.

New claim 68 includes and combines selected limitations from claims 54 and 61.

Claim 69 (newly added) depends from claim 63; new claims 70-71 are

independent claims.

Election/Restrictions

A Restriction has been imposed on claims 32-62 in the Office action of

March 27, 2008. Specifically, the Examiner has identified "patentably distinct species" A,

B, C and D, and for each species has identified multiple "variants". (See page 2 of the

Office action.) The Examiner has requested that the Applicants identify the elected species

by choosing "one from each letter group", and identifying claims encompassed within the

elected species.

The Applicants hereby provisionally elect species A4 (Fig. 11), B2 (first optical fiber

is multi-mode), C3 (means to change wavelength is source of optical radiation), and D3

(Fig. 7 - apparatus is in the form of a master oscillator power amplifier). The claim

corresponding to this structure is claim 67.

This election is being made with traverse, as follows.

Specifically, the Applicants contend that the Examiner has identified species which

are unnecessarily restrictive, and that the Examiner is able to search on a claim which is

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broader than the provisionally elected claim (claim 67). Further, the Applicants contend

that new claim 63, as currently presented, is a generic claim which is not so broad as to

impose an unreasonable burden on the Examiner to search and examine.

It is noted that claim 63 includes many limitations not previously included in

claim 32, and which were not included in any of the "species" identified by the Examiner.

The Applicants contend that the full complement of limitations now provided for in claim 63

results in a claim which is capable of search and examination without undue burden.

The Applicants also contend that claim 63 is generic, and that all of the remaining

claims which depend from claim 63 (either directly or indirectly, i.e., claims 33-35, 38-41,

44, 47-53, 56-62 and 64-69) are fully consistent with claim 63.

Further, the Applicants contend that new independent claims 70 and 71 are not

directed towards a distinct invention, and should be examined along with claim 63 at this

time.

For all of these reasons, the Applicants respectfully request that the restriction

requirement now be withdrawn, and that all of claims 33-35, 38-41, 44, 47-53 and 56-67

be examined at this time.

Request for Extension of Time Under 37 CFR § 1.136(a)

The Applicants hereby request a one (1) month extension of time under 37 CFR §

1.136(a) to respond to the Office action of March 21, 2008 by May 21, 2008. The required

fee is enclosed herewith.

Summary

The Applicants hereby request favorable and timely substantive examination of the claims presented herewith.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the below-signed representative if the Examiner believes this will facilitate prosecution toward allowance of the claims.

Respectfully Submitted,

Malcolm Paul VARNHAM, Mikhail Nicholaos ZERVAS, David Neil PAYNE, and Lars Johan Albinsson NILSSON, Applicants

Date: May 6, 2008

By:

Jolin S. Reid Reg. No. 36,369